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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



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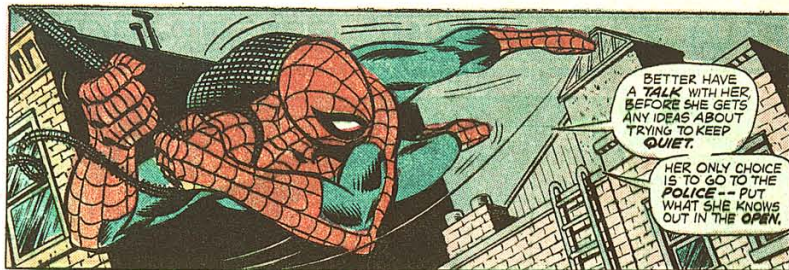
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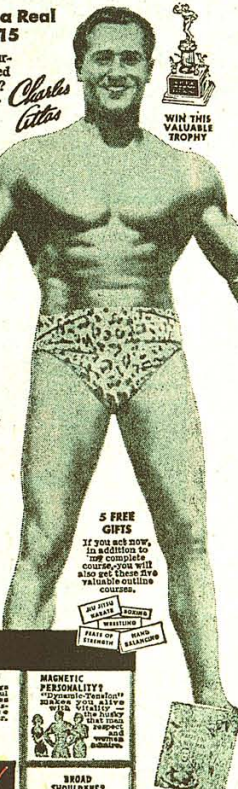
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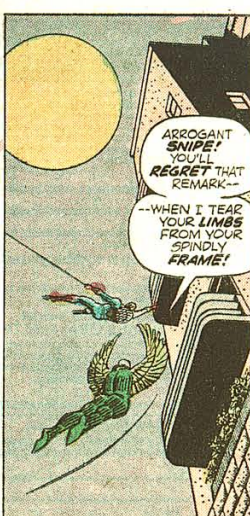
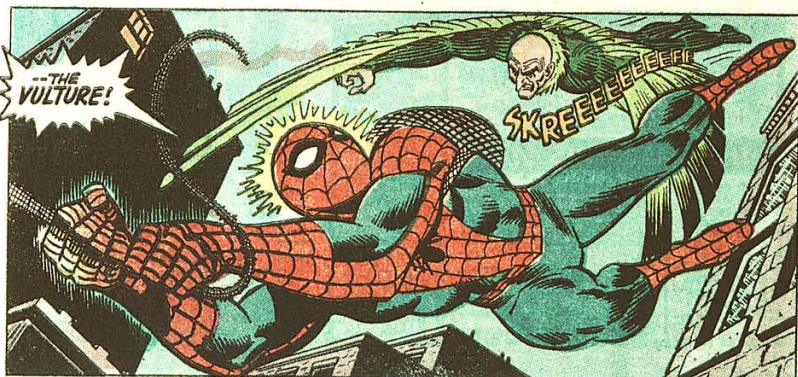
BOY! IF I HADN'T TAKEN ATLAS (AND TO BOTH FOR ME) I WOULD HAVE BEEN A BULLY! BULLY WOULD HAVE ME AROUND AGAIN!

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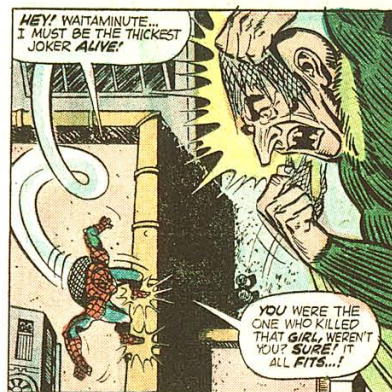
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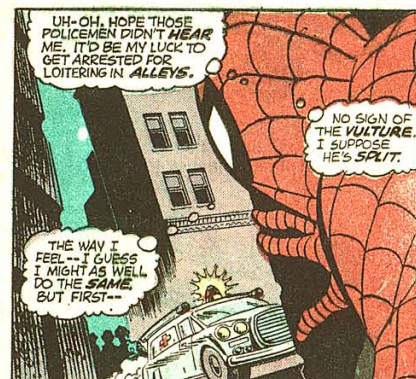
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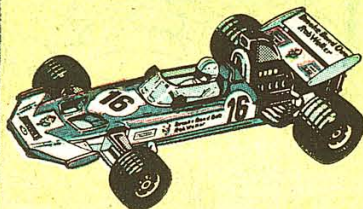
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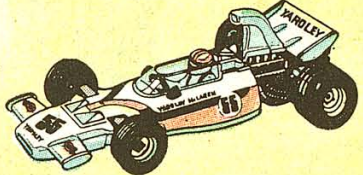
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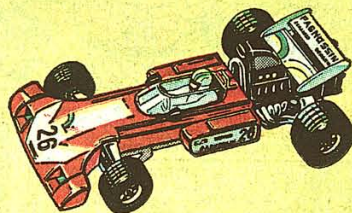
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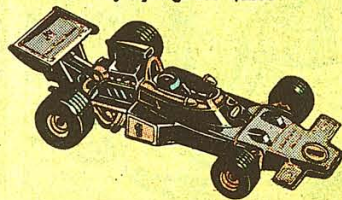
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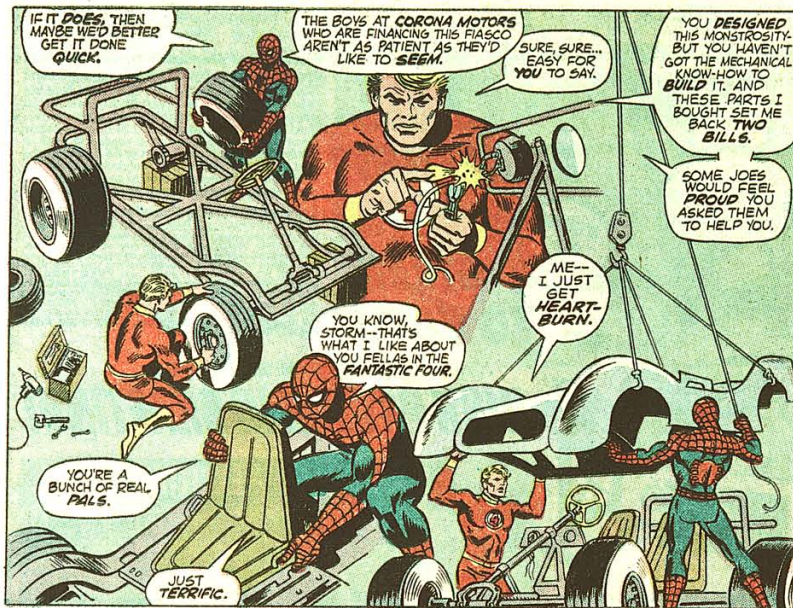
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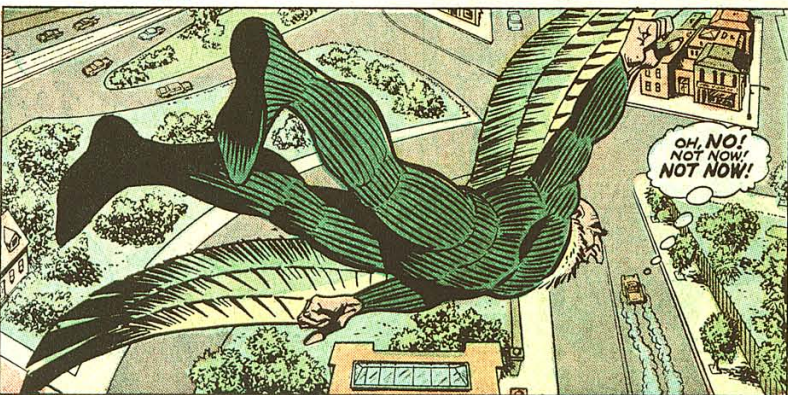
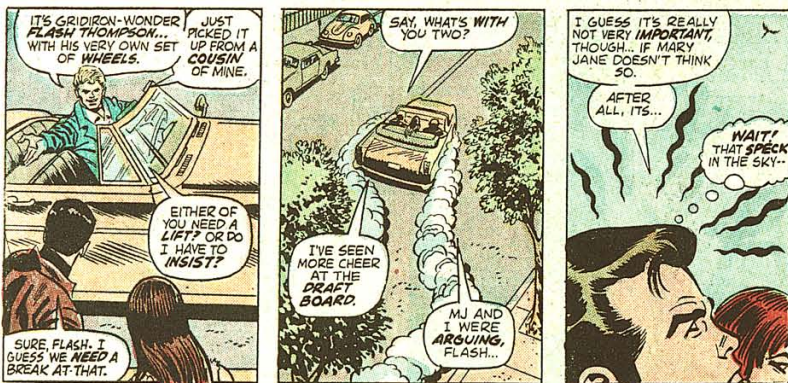
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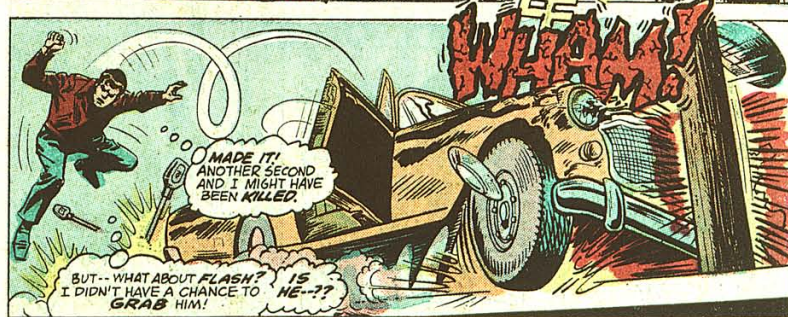
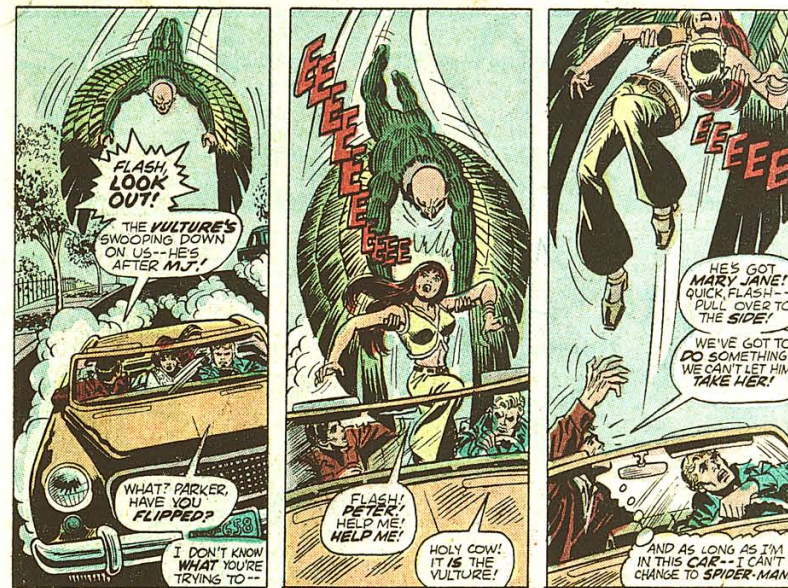
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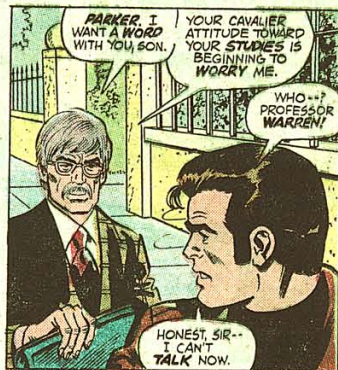




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THE SPIDERS' WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

Dear Stan, Gerry, Gil, Johnny, and Gang,
It took something as unbelievable and unexpected as Gwen's death to make this letter happen. SPIDER-MAN #121 will probably go down as the greatest issue since #1. Things have come full-cycle.

That laughing, living high school crowd of Peter's is finally breaking down in the hellish crucible of real-life 1973 America. Who ever said comics were fantasy or unreal?
Each SPIDEY character is a demi-god, representing a path open to the happy, blithe kids of the 'sixties. Flash went to war, Harry to drugs, Mary Jane to pseudo-freak flightiness, Peter to indecision and philosophical emptiness. Now, finally, we have that ever-growing grove here in the sordid 'seventies -- the victims. The apotheosis of this group is Gwen Stacy.

How two-dimensional in some ways seem the ego-centric battles of the 1967-68 era. Spidey versus Rhino, Goblin, Scorpion, Kingpin, Lizard, etc., like so many lightning strikes upon meaningless, surreal grudge matches. Now, life has become more chaotic and cruel, wasted and violent, and Peter's pantheon can't bounce back from traumas without prominent scars (if they bounce back at all). As it is with the demi-gods of SPIDER-MAN, so it is with us mere mortals. Good luck, Mary Jane and Peter. But don't expect much.

Gary Morgensen
1324 N.W. 12th Street
Gainesville, Fla. 32601

P.S.: Please present a Counter-Earth Peter and Gwen in idyllic serenity, or at least unhappily married. Gwen was one of Marvel's more ideal characters. Now she rests a sacrificial virgin.

Actually, Gary, the Counter-Earth situation is far worse. Pete and Gwen never even met on that

twain of our world, because its Peter Parker died some years ago -- from the bite of a radioactive spider.

As for the rest of your letter -- thanks, it's sad, perhaps, but that is how it is.
And now -- some slightly less restrained reactions to the death dust played out in SPIDER-MAN #121-122...

Dear CRUDS!!!
You evil-eyed-black-handed-bow-legged-flint-hearted-claw-fingered-foul-bellied-bloodthirsty ORCS!!!!

You killed GWEN!!!!!! She was the best thing to happen to Peter-Spidey-Parker-one-man-soap-opera in AGES!!!
Wait till I get you!!!!!! This had better turn out to be an illusion or something -- or else.

Jane Starr
90 Fairway Dr.
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada

Dear Marvel,
Somebody ought to throw Gerry Conway off the George Washington Bridge to see if he falls kills him before impact.

Richard Nathan
5307 Sepulveda Blvd., Apt. 301
Van Nuys, Calif. 91401

A few more letters like those, Jane, and Rich encouragement from us.

Of course, there were more than a few positive reactions, also...

Dear Marvel,
Are you sure you guys are mortal?
SPIDER-MAN #122 is the best comic I've ever read. What characterization! What insight! It was

great -- no, magnificent!

I immediately bought several copies. One I'm reading to death, the rest I'm going to read for posterity. For many years from now, when Jim Starlin III is doing "The Further History of Comics", this may well be noted as a landmark. Good work, men. Keep it going.

Melissa Pollack, Jr.
264 Alhara St.
Saddle Brook, N.J. 07065

Dear Stan and Gerry and Gil and John and Tony and Artie and Dave and Roy,

It really is rare when a comic magazine story can release all the emotions of the average SPIDER-MAN #121 & 122 did just that. By reading the story and looking at the artwork, you can tell just how Mr. Parker/Spider-Man feels about Gwen's death. Ahh, yes... Gwen! I have just finished reading SPIDER-MAN #122, and even as I savor the last panel of artwork, I'm still trying to convince myself that Gwen is really dead. And if you try one of those corny sequels where she miraculously comes back to life, I'll permanently scratch SPIDER-MAN off my "must-buy" list, as I'm sure other readers will do, also. But for now, he definitely stays on the list.

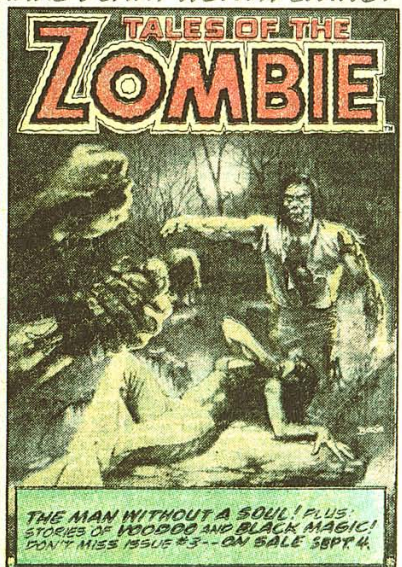
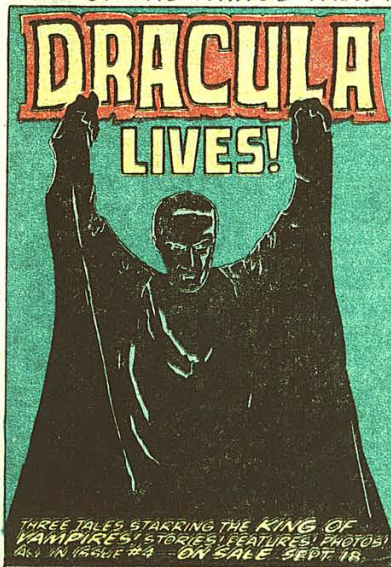
I guess that's all I want to say for now. Thanks for having such realistic heroes with such realistic -- and tragic -- problems. I don't know what Pete'll do now without Gwen, but that makes it more interesting. I continually catch myself actually believing these characters are real. And it's hard to convince myself that they are nothing more than paper and ink and some guy's imagination.

Mike Jacot
5213 E. Marlette Rd.
Marlette, Mich. 48453

We'll let you in on a little secret, Mike -- we've got that same problem ourselves. In fact, we think that's what makes Marvel, Marvel.

Messrs. Pollack and Jacot, and all you hundreds of others who've written pro and con on the Gwen/Green Goblin tragedy -- our gratitude is yours. See you in thirty days, people!

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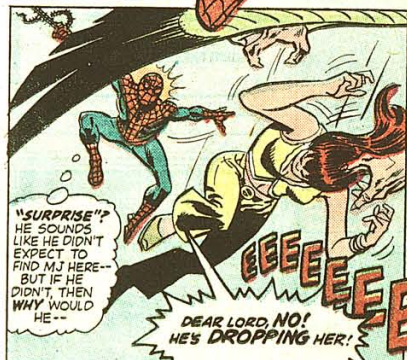
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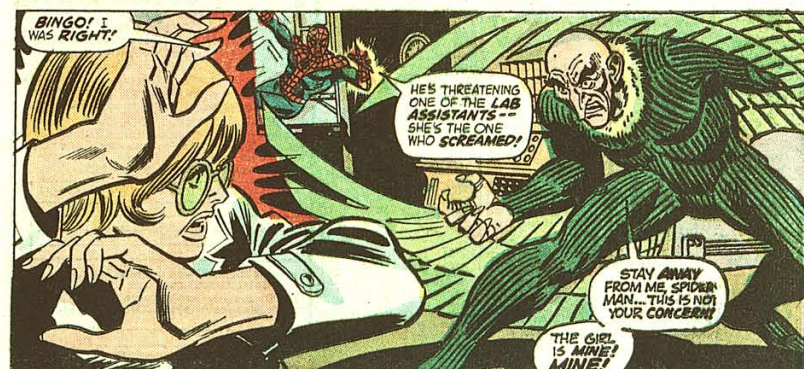
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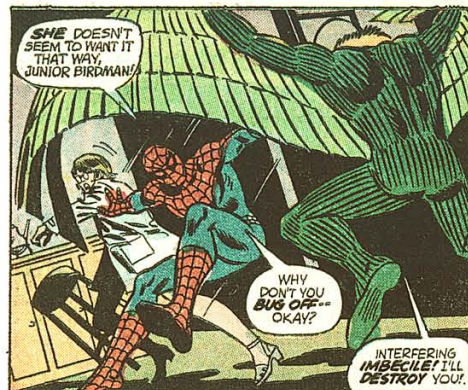
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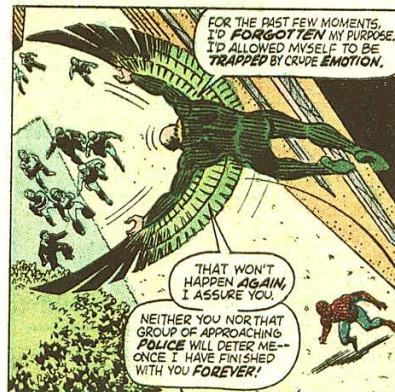
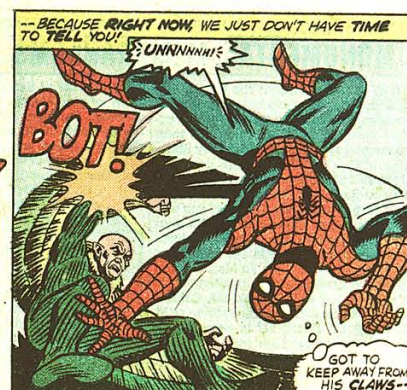
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ITEM! We've a couple of other new mags debuting this go-round, too, for those of you who simply can't get enough of our macabre mystery-type thrillers. Don't miss your collectors'-item editions of a trio of winners called **UNCANNY TALES**, **THE DEAD OF NIGHT**, and **WEIRD WONDER TALES**! The latter, incidentally, features startling sagas of a more science-fiction nature, drawn by some of comicdom's finest! Read 'em and resp, pilgrim!

ITEM! Hey, here's a special aside to all our college readers—and, to Judge from our mail, just about every college joe and co-ed in the land must be into Marvel. Anyway, here's the bit: If your college bookstore isn't carrying the latest Marvel masterworks, let us know pronto by dropping us a line c/o CIRCULATION DEPT., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Ave., NYC NY 10022. Help that bookstore of yours shape up, okay? After all, we wouldn't wantcha to be culturally deprived!

ITEM! Looks like the whole world's goin' crazy! *CRAZY* Magazine, that 1st Editor MARV WOLFMAN got busy on the phone the other day, and now issue #2 spotlights a heaping handful of satire by none other than ART BUCHWALD, one of America's most famous humorists—in addition to potent parody by some of the world's wittiest artists and writers! Want proof? Then dig our special Back-To-School ish. That's *CRAZY* #2, now on sale—wherever mirthful magazines are sold!

ITEM! Well, we predicted it—and yea verily, it has come to pass! In other words, it looks like our far-out FOOOM Club is gonna be a bigger fit than the good of MMS and Marvelmania combined—and this one's here to stay, people! Every day brings a veritable mountain of mail singing the praises of all the goodies you get when you sign up—and if you don't believe us, just peruse some of our lil' 'n' letters pages, where we've printed the most colorful of the lot! Meanwhile, Jaunty JIM STERANKO—our Minister of InFOOLation—is already shipping out the third big issue of our very own FOOOM Magazine to each and every member, and this one is replete with the first of a

zingy new set of Secret Codes which so many of you—young and old—have requested! The very first cipher is our SPIDER-MAN CODE, and here's a cryptic message about an upcoming Marvel event which is definitely F.O.O.M. (For Only Our Members!) To wit:
 HSGMDUB RIWFB SNFG
 OFIG DJ JSNHFHMF.
 Captain Midnight, eat your heart out!

Bad news, it seems, never travels alone.
 Only two months ago, this space told of the demise of our friend and co-worker, Bill Everett. And now, we regret to announce the untimely passing of another all-time great comic artist, SYD SHORES, on Sunday, June 3, 1973.
 Syd has been known for his fine work over the years, most notably on Captain America in the 1940's, and on Red Wolf and many other strips in more recent years. A fuller word will appear in the fourth issue of *Monsters Unleashed*, where Syd's last work will appear.
 Meanwhile, suffice it to say that he was a real talent...and he'll be missed.

NIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

DRACULA LIVES #4: Vampire vs. vampire—on the haunted backlots of Hollywood! Plus—the Blood-Countess of Transylvania Just 75¢!

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CRAZY #2: Special Back-To-School ish! And even Harrison High was never as freaked-out as Marvel's newest laugh-riol Just 40¢, cheapskate!

FANTASTIC FOUR #141: (The End of Annihilation—and more!)—SPIDER-MAN #127 (The Vulture soars again!)—THOR #218—HULK #170—AVENGERS #118 (Guest-starring the dynamic Defenders—in full force!)—TOMB OF DRACULA #15—HERO FOR HIRE #16—CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #168 (What is the secret of the man called Phoenix?)—DAREDEVIL #106 (With four of DD's deadliest foes!)—CONAN THE BARBARIAN #33—FEAR #19 (The Man-Thing—what else?)—WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #11 (The Hangman strikes!)—GHOST RIDER #4—IRON MAN #65—MARVEL TEAM-UP #16 (Spidey meets Captain Marvel—'nuff said!)—THE DEFENDERS #11—DOC SAVAGE #8 ("The Brand of the Werewolf")—ASTONISHING TALES #21 (Ka-Zar and Zabu—'nuff said!)—MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE #1 (Iron Man and Captain America, no less!)—MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #13 (The full,

fantastic origin of the Son of Satan! A must!)—a nifty newie called MASTER OF KUNG FU—and a horde of literary landmarks!

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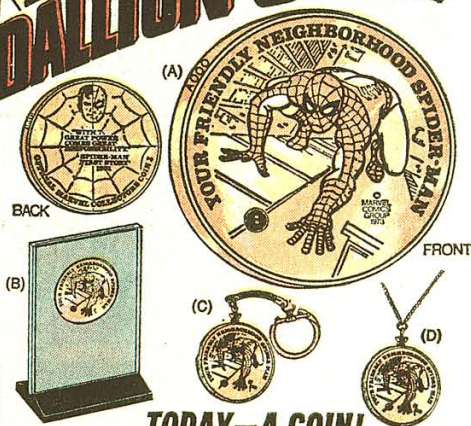
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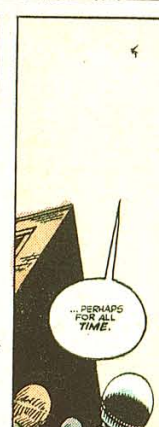
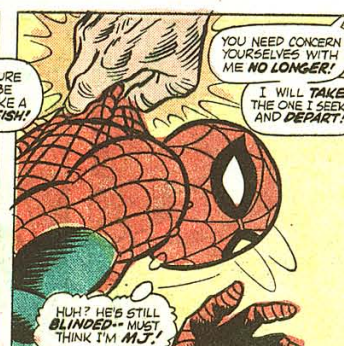
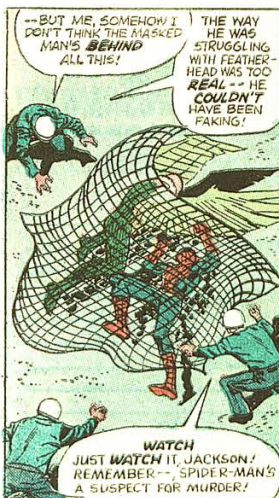
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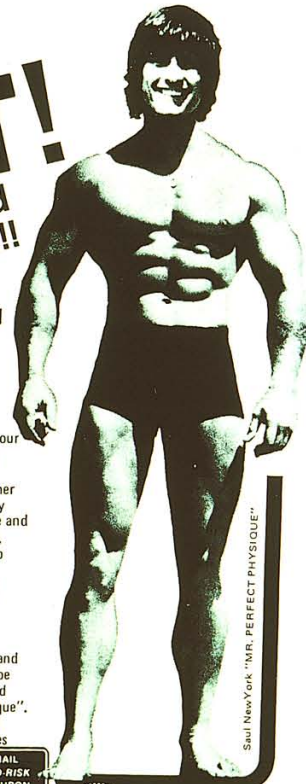
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